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CYFAR

Children, Youth,
and Families
At Risk
Program



2006 Annual Report
<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/cyfar/>

2006 — A Year of Accomplishments for CYFAR and 4-H Military Partnerships

The CYFAR 2006 Conference in Atlanta was one of the best ever – keynote speakers Constance Curry, Geoffrey Canada and Michael Resnick received rave reviews from the 800 participants. Todrick Webb, a former Youth at Risk program participant, played the piano with extraordinary skill and beauty. Bo Ryles, Don Bower and their University of Georgia colleagues provided strong support and pioneered our first playground build event.

CYFAR programs served 27,600 youth and parents in 122 communities in 41 states. Six thousand of the youth were enrolled in 199 4-H clubs led by 969 youth and adult volunteers. As CYFAR community programs are sustained these youth will continue to be part of 4-H and Extension.

CYFERnet teams reviewed 1,300 new resources and posted 996 to CYFERnet – reaching a total of 7,700 resources. They also provided web-based trainings on school violence, childhood obesity, hurricane rebuilding, and immigrant youth. CYFERnet offered *Hot Topic* pages every month, developed the *Teens-R-It* Web site, and collaborated with eXtension on six communities of practice.

Secretary of Agriculture Michael Johanns awarded the 4-H/Army Youth Development Project (YDP) the USDA Honor Award *for a collaboration of federal agencies, using public resources wisely, and meeting critical challenges facing American children when parents are deployed*. The YDP provided Operation: Military Kids grants to 30 states focusing on deployment support. OMK programs reached over 29,000 youth. The 4-H Military grant program funded by Air Force, Army, and 4-H provided grants to 31 states to support 4-H clubs for military youth.

Integration of CYFAR and military programs into the work of 4-H Extension is one of the proudest accomplishments – military 4-H clubs, CYFAR 4-H clubs, CYFERnet multi-university collaborations, the cross over work among CYFAR Project Directors, State 4-H Military Liaison, and OMK State Teams are but a few examples. Initiatives in process for 2007 – the 4-H Family Strengthening Distinguished Lecture at the CYFAR 2007 Conference, the roll out of 4-H 101 and Moving Ahead manuals at NAE4-HA, a tour of 4-H clubs on Air Force bases, the 40 CYFAR Projects in states – will extend this integration for the benefit of our CYFAR children, youth and families.

Sharon KB Wright

National Program Leader for CYFAR and 4-H Military Partnerships

National 4-H Headquarters

Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

CYFAR

Children, Youth,
and Families
At Risk
Program

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Utah: Air Force youth learning 4-H skills.

Children, Youth, and Families At Risk Programs in 2006

Through an annual Congressional appropriation for the national Children, Youth, and Families at Risk (CYFAR) Program, CSREES allocates funding to Land Grant University Extension Services to support programs for at-risk children and their families and for enhancing Extension capacity statewide to serve this audience. To assure the critical needs of children and families are met, the universities support comprehensive, intensive, research-based community programs developed with active citizen participation. CYFAR also supports a system of technical assistance and training for the community and university faculty who conduct CYFAR programs including CYFERnet and the annual CYFAR Conference. This report is a summary of CYFAR accomplishments in 2006 including demographic data and articles featuring successful programs. Complete descriptions of all CYFAR programs can be found under "CYFAR State and Community Program Data" on the CYFAR web site: <http://www.csrees.usda.gov/cyfar>.

Demographic Data

In 2006, CYFAR projects in 41 states supported community programs at 122 sites reaching 21,392 youth and 6,208 adults – a total of 27,600 participants. Age of youth participants was: 1,395 Pre-K; 12,367 Grades K-6; and 7,630 Grades 7-12.

Fifty- five percent (55%) of all participants are from rural areas and small towns, 29% are from towns and cities, 15% are from cities, and 1% from suburbs. Of the youth, 71% live in poverty. CYFAR projects employ 318 staff members implementing programs throughout the country.

Adult (1683) and youth (984) volunteers provide support to the programs and staff – devoting a total of 101,586 volunteer hours. The bar graphs show the diversity of youth and adults involved as participants, staff, and volunteers in CYFAR programs.

Alabama

"Beginning Education Early and Healthy: Strengthening Rural Alabama Families"
Ellen Abell, abellel@auburn.edu
Francesca Adler-Baeder
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Kathleen Tejeu, ktajeu@auburn.edu

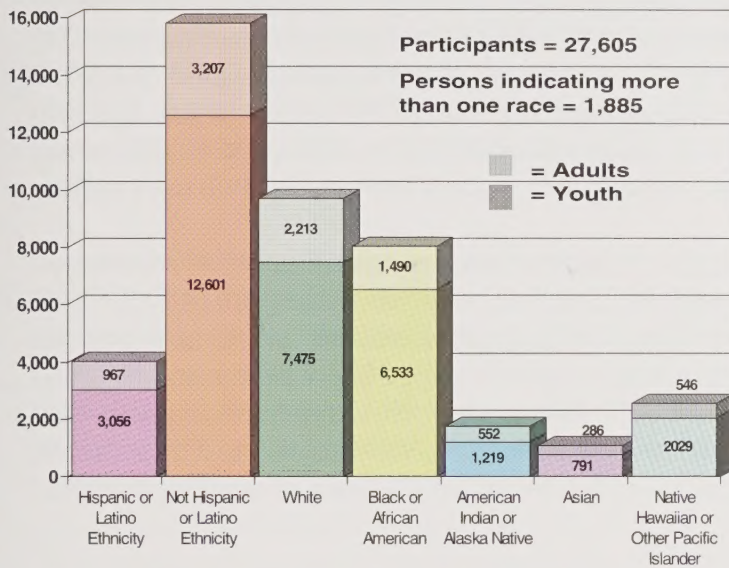
Alaska

"Community Collaborations for Children, Youth and Families of Alaska's Military Services"
Peter Stortz
ffcl@uaf.edu

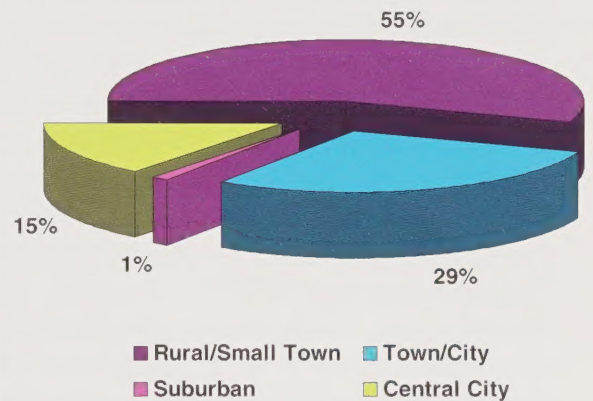
Arizona

"The Arizona Youth Collaborative: Youth, Family and Communities"
Lynne Borden
bordenl@ag.arizona.edu
Joyce Serido
jserido@ag.arizona.edu

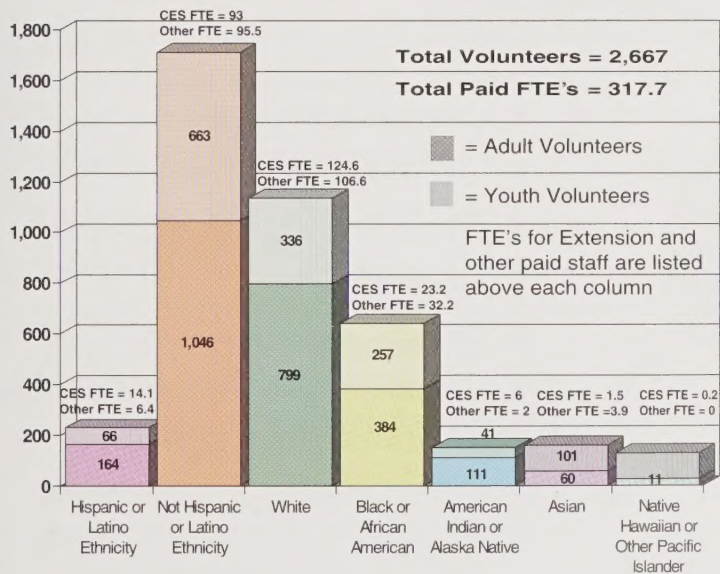
Population Served by Race/Ethnicity



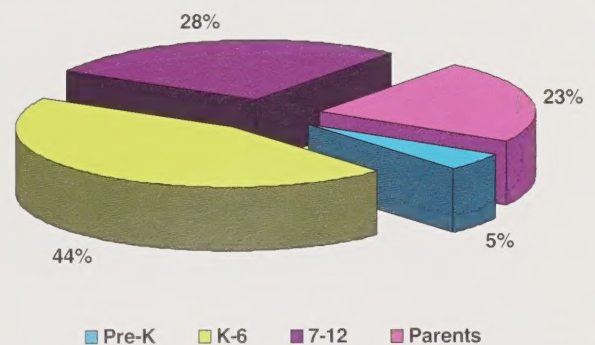
Population Served by Location



Staff by Race/Ethnicity



Participants by Age



Arkansas

"Family and Community Connections"
Wallace Goddard
wgoddard@uaex.edu
James Marshall
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California

"Project PITCH - Partners Investing in Teens' and Children's Health"
Carole MacNeil
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Colorado

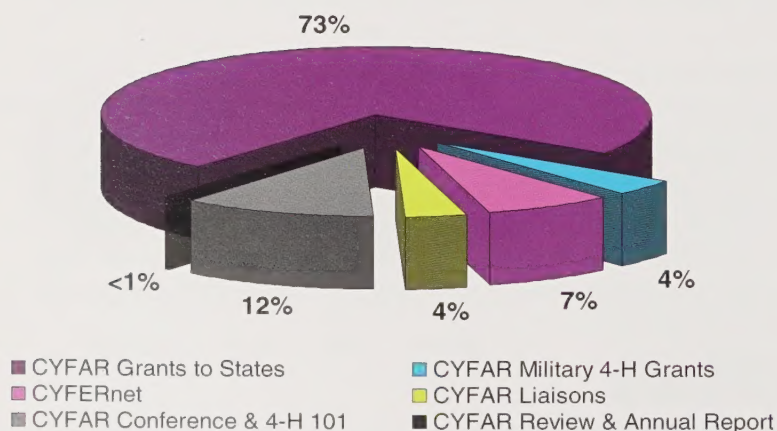
"Colorado Organizing for Children, Youth and Families at Risk"
Jan Carroll
jan.carroll@colostate.edu
Jeff Goodwin
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CYFAR Budget

Of the \$7,344,691 CYFAR program budget, 73% provided funding directly to universities for community programs. This included new and renewal CYFAR New Communities Projects in 34 states and new Sustainable Community Projects in seven states – reaching a total of 27,600 youth and families with educational programs. States matched their CYFAR grants with a minimum of \$2,050,000. The CYFAR share of Military 4-H grants accounted for another \$280,000 which provided support to county 4-H professionals working with military youth programs in 31 states.

The remaining 23% of the 2005 CYFAR budget provided a wide range of technical assistance and support to CYFAR community and university staff and programs. Seven percent of the CYFAR budget supported CYFERnet Program, Technology, and Evaluation editorial functions, resources and trainings. Professional development offerings — the CYFAR 2006 Conference, CYFAR Orientation and 4-H 101 training used 12% of the CYFAR budget. Three percent of the budget funded Cooperative Support Agreements with universities for six CYFAR Liaisons who provided technical assistance to all the CYFAR programs. The CYFAR peer review process and annual report account for the remaining 1%.

2006 Budget Breakdown



\$ 5,395,820	CYFAR Grants to States
\$ 280,000	CYFAR Military 4-H Grants
\$ 851,659	CYFAR 2006 Conference & 4-H 101 Trainings
\$ 544,725	CYFERnet
\$ 259,803	CYFAR Liaisons
\$ 12,684	Project Review & Annual Report

TOTAL CYFAR BUDGET: \$7,344,691

Connecticut

"New Communities - New Connections"
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Delaware

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Florida

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CYFAR Collaborations

While 1890 and 1994 institutions are *not* eligible to apply for CYFAR Smith Lever (3d) grants, 1862 institutions are encouraged to collaborate and subcontract with these institutions. For example, the University of the District of Columbia CYFAR New Communities Project is managed through collaboration with the University of Maryland. The 1862 institutions listed below have partnerships with 1890 and 1994 institutions, tribal reservations and the Cherokee Nation as part of their CYFAR grants.

Auburn University – Tuskegee University
Kansas State University – Haskell Indian Nations University
Montana State University – Rocky Boy Reservation
North Dakota State University – Standing Rock Indian Reservation
University of Nevada – Duck Valley Indian Reservation
Oklahoma State University – The Cherokee Nation
Clemson University – South Carolina State
University of Tennessee – Tennessee State University
Texas A&M University – Prairie View A&M University

CYFAR Community and Faith-Based Partnerships

Four CYFAR New Community Projects reported faith-based partnerships in their year end reports. CYFERnet — Evaluation team members Lydia I. Marek and Jay A. Mancini from Virginia Tech surveyed project directors from these states and summarized the following information about these partnerships for a report to USDA and the White House.

South Carolina has established community partnerships with land-grant universities (both 1890 and 1862), local businesses, 4-H, community service agencies, schools, civic organizations, governmental agencies and other CYFAR sites in other USDA grant projects, such as Operation: Military Kids & ESRI GIS grants, as well as with faith-based organizations. In their CYFAR projects faith base organizations are involved in staff training; program development, implementation, and evaluation; provision of space; and serving on advisory boards.

Both community partners and faith-based partners are viewed as helping other land-grant faculty gather research data, introduce faculty to community leaders and seeking partnerships with local county agents to involve CYFAR children in 4-H activities. In addition, these partnerships are

Georgia

“Georgia Strong Families/Strong Communities”

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Sharon M. Speights Gibson

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Hawaii

“Networking, Collaborating and Partnering for Effective Family and Community Programs”

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Joan Chong, jchong@hawaii.edu

Rhoda Yoshino, ryoshino@hawaii.edu

Idaho

“Developing Workforce Preparation and Leadership Skills Through Technology”

Arlinda K. Nauman

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viewed as facilitating the integration of CYFAR principals, philosophy and commitment to serving low income audiences into base Extension programs.

One Illinois project has established community partnerships with community service agencies, schools, governmental agencies and with those in the medical field as well as with faith-based organizations. Faith-based organizations are involved in a formal coalition, in-kind support and program implementation.

Both community partners and faith-based partners give input into the recruitment of participants, provide incentives for the program and provide insight to parenting education programs and support in the local area. In addition, these partnerships contribute to program success by assisting with access for data collections, offering parenting programs, providing insight to assessing and evaluating concerns of new parents, networking among agencies to support parenting resources and "providing the open-door and comfort zone for their clientele to join this project."

Maryland has established community partnerships with local businesses, Boys and Girls Clubs, community service agencies, schools, civic organizations and governmental agencies as well as faith-based organizations. Faith-based organizations are involved in program implementation and serve as advisory board members. They are also involved in staff training and supervision, grant writing, provision of space, cash and in-kind support and providing personnel.

Both community partners and faith-based partners provide access to youth in the target audience and connections to other community-based resources and promote the program. In addition, faith-based partners provide connections to other faith-based resources and a partnership for a summer program. The faith-based partnership is relatively new but is already yielding much in terms of program success. "The partners are committed to ensuring program participants by actively recruiting in the immediate and the broader community. The partnership has also resulted, as noted, in volunteers for the CYFAR project, which is another key component to program success and sustainability."

Although they do not have a collaboration with a specific faith-based program, the Alaska CYFAR NCP has worked with the base chapel at Eielson AFB to conduct programs, included chaplains in Teen Natural Helpers training by inviting them to attend and visit with the teens about the programs and confidential counseling that they can offer, and they included the chapel briefing as part of the deployment line of Operation Bug Out Youth Mock Deployment.

Illinois

"Partners in Parenting: Couples, Communities and University"
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Indiana

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Iowa

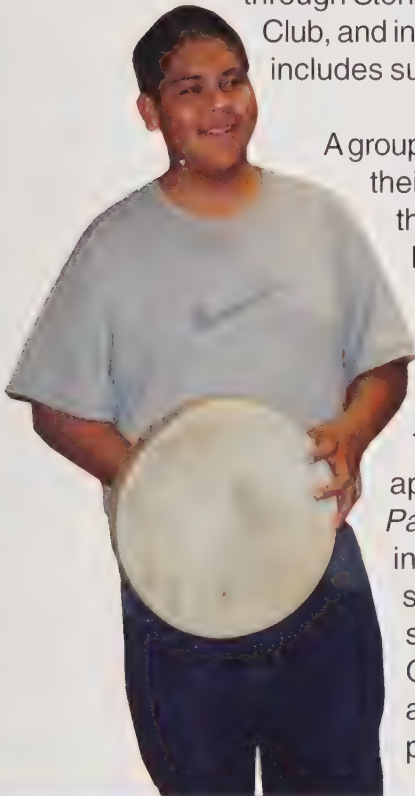
"Strengthening Iowa Communities for At-Risk Children, Youth, and Families"
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Positive Outcomes of CYFAR

CYFAR programs integrate USDA and land-grant university resources to develop and deliver educational programs that equip limited resource families and at risk youth to lead positive, productive, contributing lives. The following programs exemplify success in one of the CYFAR national outcomes.

Building Community Strengths in Montana Sandy Bailey, Mary St. Pierre and Peggy Aquino

The Rocky Boy Indian Reservation project provides opportunities for youth and adults to learn technology skills, build upon life skills for workforce readiness and enrich family life through education and support of families. The project has expanded 4-H projects to include Chippewa Cree culture, tradition and language relevant components. Computer classes have been taught through Stone Child College for credit, in conjunction with the Bear's Paw Boys & Girls Club, and included a session specifically for grandparents and older adults. The project includes support groups and resources for grandparents raising grandchildren.



A group of young men from the 4-H Native American Cultural Crafts group created their own drumming and singing group performing at community events and the state Grandparents Raising Grandchildren conference. As young boys beginning in 4-H, they have gained respect, developed new friendships and become role models to their peers. A teacher commented, "the young men have become so mature, respectable and their positive attitudes towards school and socializing are nice to see."

The Rocky Boy Grandparents Raising Grandchildren groups are serving approximately 60 grandfamilies. One group completed the curriculum *Parenting a Second Time Around* from Cornell Cooperative Extension and incorporated Chippewa Cree culture into the classes. The grandparents shared everyday life experiences and discussed alternative problem-solving methods. Several of the grandparents attended the first Montana Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Conference and learned about available resources for grandfamilies, nutritional needs for children, estate planning and family interactions.

Kansas

"New Communities Project -
Kansas Teen Leadership for
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Kansas - Haskell

"New Avenues"
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Kentucky

"Building Family-based Assets for
Health and Wellness in Kentucky"
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Collaboration with other organizations and agencies on the Rocky Boy Indian Reservation has set the stage for project sustainability. The nontraditional 4-H projects incorporating Indian culture have been well received and will continue as part of the local 4-H program. The Grandparents Raising Grandchildren support groups will continue through linkages with Stone Child College Extension and the MSU Extension Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Project.

Enhancing Extension Presence in New Communities: North Dakota State University CYFAR - *Building Connections*

One of the most exciting aspects of the North Dakota CYFAR Building Connections project is the strengthened presence of Extension in a community with little to no prior Extension involvement. The Building Connections project, directed by Sean Brotherson and Kathleen Schmaltz, delivers parent education and 4-H positive youth development activities to parents and students at two sites, including the Standing Rock Indian Reservation. The Standing Rock Indian Reservation is situated in one of the 15 poorest counties in the nation. With unemployment nearing 80% and a county with one of the lowest per capita incomes, the need was great for the programs offered by the CYFAR project. The local partners at Standing Rock noted that there were no parent education and youth development programs prior to Building Connections. Now that they've seen the possibilities and successes, the partners are beginning to have a greater vision for integrating Extension efforts in their community.

Especially noteworthy in terms of the growing support for CYFAR and Extension work in Standing Rock is that in spite of being one of the poorest counties in the nation, and in the midst of ongoing tough economic times, the county commissioners approved a purchase of a new Extension office. In the past, because the old space was small and also posed a health risk, the program staff had to scramble to find space to conduct the parent education workshops. The brand new double-wide trailer is now large enough to host the Building Connection's parent education program activities. The county commissioners indicated that one reason for providing the new building was their desire for the important work of Building Connections to continue.

The NDSU Extension administration also played a key role in enhancing Extension presence at Standing Rock by making a commitment for a new, full-time Extension position at Standing Rock to sustain the work started by Building Connections. Both Extension and Standing Rock community partners agree that having a full time Extension presence in Sioux County has made all the difference in growing the program and building relationships.

Louisiana

"Collaboration for After-School Education (CASE)"
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Maine

"Building Community Capacity in Maine"
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Maryland

"Community Youth Connections"
Kendra Wells
klwells@umd.edu

In addition, the Building Connections project continues to invest in the community member's capacity to work with parents and youth. The parent education and youth activities at Standing Rock are often run by local adults and youth who were trained by Extension staff and/or past participants of the Building Connections project. These paraprofessionals live and work locally and are part of other existing social service networks in the community. Thus, their knowledge and skills gained in the project will continue to have impacts far beyond the end of the project.

Through the New Communities Project funding, CYFAR hoped to build and grow Extension presence in new or hard to reach communities. NDSU Extension, through its CYFAR Building Connections project, is doing just that.

CYFAR Projects Focus on the Fourth H—Health

CYFAR projects are forming strong partnerships with 4-H and Family Living programs in many states and are making healthy living the focus of their community programs. 4-H is committed to the physical, mental and emotional health of our nation's youth so they may lead healthy and productive lives well into adulthood. Many CYFAR projects are providing educational opportunities for youth and families to increase their health and fitness. The following states provide a snap shot of healthy living programs.

South Dakota: The New Communities Project Shape Up: Family Style! is creating a community environment that supports families in the areas of nutrition and health by educating families about physical activity, nutrition, obesity and diabetes. Through opening lines of communication, improving healthy eating habits, increasing physical activity levels, decreasing perceived barriers to healthier behaviors and establishing effective collaboration with multifaceted organizations, the children, youth, parents, families and community are actively leading healthier lifestyles.



Oklahoma: The Oklahoma New Communities project translates personal health behaviors, physical activity, nutrition and food safety recommendations into understandable actions and behaviors youth can apply to their daily lives. Their goal is to equip limited resource youth with the knowledge, skills and behaviors to lead healthier lives.

Massachusetts

"Expanding 4-H Youth Development in Massachusetts Communities"
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karenb@umext.umass.edu

Michigan

"Partnerships for Activism and Social Justice: A Community Youth Development Approach to Leadership for Personal and Social Change"
Karen L. Pace
pace1@msu.edu

Minnesota

"University of Minnesota Site Based Positive Out of School Time Project"
Lucia Orcutt
orcut003@umn.edu
Dorothy McCargo Freeman
Freeman@umn.edu



Arkansas: Youth and their families enjoy a Halloween event.



Delaware: 4-H Afterschool program sponsors an annual bookfair.

4-H Programs of Distinction
www.national4-Hheadquarters.gov/about/pod.htm

Kansas: The primary objective of “Kansas Teen Leadership for Physically Active Lifestyles” is to encourage teens to be more physically active. Teens are engaged in leadership roles that require them to model physically active lifestyles in their afterschool positions and in rural Morris, Ellsworth and Meade communities. Along with service to afterschool participants, teen leaders planned and conducted community campaigns and events to promote physical activity for all.

California: Project PITCH: Partners Investing in Teen and Children’s Health is committed to building innovative, research-based community programs to promote healthy futures for youth through developing a wide variety of life competencies in young people. The Teens 4 Teens project in Alameda County focuses on peer health education and leadership development. The 4-H Bloco Drum and Dance project in Sonoma County provides creative dance and rhythm activities as a way to teach youth about healthy behaviors, eating habits, and diversity. Project TOKEN in Solano County helps teens to be aware of and use confidential health care services.

4-H Programs of Distinction

The Programs of Distinction process at National 4-H Headquarters is going strong. The searchable database of high quality youth development programs features seven CYFAR-supported programs to date. These include: 4-H Afterschool Adventure (NJ), 4-H LIFE-Living Interactive Family Education Program (MO), 4-H Mentoring: Youth and Families with Promise (UT), Cyber Town at the Woodrow Wilson Center (MD), Family Camp: Strengthening At-Risk Families Through Adventure Based Initiatives (NJ), Project SOAR: 4-H Mentoring Program (AZ), and Seeds to Success Youth Farmstand Project (NJ). 4-H LIFE and Seeds to Success will be featured in the CSREES *Partners* videomagazine, “Our Children,” in Spring of 2007.

Mississippi

“Bridging the Gap in New Communities in Mississippi”
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Missouri

“Living Interactive Family Education - Sustainable Community Project”
 Jo Britt-Rankin
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 Ina Metzger Linville
Linville@missouri.edu
 Tammy Gillespie
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Montana

“Building Community Strengths in Montana”
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 Kirk Astroth, kastroth@montana.edu
 Mary St. Pierre, marystpierre2003@yahoo.com
 Tara Andrews, tandrews@montana.edu
 Sharla Sackman, sackman@montana.edu

Programs of Distinction is a peer-reviewed process designed to recognize outstanding Extension youth development programs and provide opportunities for scholarship for Extension educators and specialists. Manuscripts are accepted on a continuous basis and are reviewed by trained peer reviewers. This national program is managed by Dr. Suzanne Le Menestrel, National Program Leader, Youth Development Research, National 4-H Headquarters, CSREES.

Visit the Programs of Distinction Web site for more information, application materials and to access the database.

Technical Assistance to CYFAR Programs

CYFERnet: Children, Youth and Families Education and Research Network

CYFERnet-Technology

Project Directors: Trudy Dunham and Bob Rubinyi, University of Minnesota Extension Service

Since 1994, CYFERnet Technology has managed a wide collection of child, family, youth and community programming and evaluation resources. In 2006, team members reached out to new and existing CYFAR audiences via workshops and online resources across the country. During the 2006 CYFAR Conference, CYFERnet Technology offered workshops on digital photography, Web site development, online safety, "wiki" collaboration and educational computer-based gaming. The team also served a key planning role, as well as produced and led skillathons, a career fair and a mobile computer labs training at the 2006 National 4-H Technology Leadership Conference.



Florida: After school participants and staff tend to the garden.

CYFERnet
<http://www.cyfernet.org>



Hawaii: A future kindergartner experiments with sorting objects by color, at Kindergartners Are Most Precious program.

Nebraska

"Communities Together Can"
 Vickie Greve
vgreve1@unl.edu

Nevada

"New Communities Give Juveniles a Chance to Change"
 William P. Evans
evans@unr.nevada.edu
 Marilyn Smith
smithm@unce.unr.edu

New Hampshire

"NH Promise with CLASS"
 Paula J. Gregory
paula.gregory@unh.edu



Haskell (KS): A Spotted Eagle Dance Troupe member parading in at Denver March powwow.

The CYFERnet Web site received over 1.3 million visits in 2005-2006, including more than 27 million “hits” and an average of approximately 12,000 unique users or visitors each month. The site has grown in both content and scope, with more exciting features on the horizon. At <http://www.cyfernet.org/4htech>, visitors can access a wealth of technology resources to integrate into their youth programs, such as Science, Engineering & Technology (SET) skillathons and tips on computer recycling, mobile labs and camp building. In fall 2006, CYFERnet - Technology launched a “Mission of the Month” Web component. This new service highlights low-cost, hands-on activities centered on a National 4-H Mission Mandates monthly theme—from geographic information systems to space exploration.

The team also improved the user-friendliness of CYFERnet. Along with delivering information to CYFAR staff and other youth and family professionals through online training, listservs and streaming video, the team added an RSS feed and an expanded search tool to the CYFERnet database. CYFERnet-Technology worked with CSREES to add the Essential Elements categories to the CYFERnet database search.

In response to requests from CYFAR community programs, CYFERnet-Technology identified easy-to-use Web development tools and provided training and templates to promote and enhance development of program Web sites. CYFERnet also provided the wiki platform and training for a number of virtual work teams to help them collaborate online.

In 2006 CYFERnet-Technology continued to collaborate with 4-H on the award-winning work in GIS programming. In addition to a GIS-focused “Mission of the Month” theme in November, we coordinated the application/review process for 4-H GIS software grants from ESRI and the National 4-H GIS/GPS Leadership Team’s participation in the ESRI Conference. Such programs are improving SET literacy across the nation.



Kansas: The afterschool program Cats-in-Action! increases physical activity using CATCH games.

New Jersey

“Cultivating Youth and Communities for Positive Futures”

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Lydia Blalock

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Ginny Powell

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New Mexico

“Just Be It! Healthy and Fit”

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New York

“Community Improvement Through Youth—The CITY Project ”

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June Mead

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Thanks Be to Bob!



In July the CYFERnet-Technology team said goodbye to one of its longtime pioneers. Due to other commitments at the University of Minnesota, Bob Rubinyi left the CYFERnet project after 15 years of service. Rubinyi enjoys his current work with the U of M Technology Enhanced Learning Team and Extension's Learning Technology group, but he'll always have a soft spot for CYFERnet, and vice versa.

From the prehistoric days (i.e., early 1990s) of using the Gopher application over dial-up connections to today's wireless, high-speed Internet culture, the CYFERnet mission has evolved from basic connectivity to full-fledged technology integration. Along with Trudy Dunham and partners nationwide, Rubinyi pushed this evolution, in spite of some resistance.

"During one of our first CYFAR conferences, Trudy and I were trying to talk to people about why they should be using computer technology, and we were practically thrown off the stage. It was like, 'This work is about kids, families; computers are for someone else!' Even the idea of using e-mail seemed very cold and formal back then."

Thanks to uncompromising vision, Rubinyi and his teammates continued to show CYFAR communities how technology can benefit children, youth and family programs. Yet, he says they never pushed technology just for technology's sake. "The challenge with any innovation is convincing people that the benefits are greater than the amount of time they have to spend learning the technology. If you start with the benefits, then people might listen to you." Judging by the tremendous growth of CYFERnet, people not only listened - they learned.



Massachusetts: CYFAR youth help at a "National Night Out" family event.



Michigan: Youth and adults create a video as they build relationships and leadership skills and learn about themselves and their communities.



Missouri: A father and daughter talk after an activity promoting good decision making at 4-H LIFE.

North Carolina

"Sustainable Community Project"

Marshall Stewart

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Sandra Zaslow

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North Dakota

"Building Connections"

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Kathleen Schmaltz

kathleen.schmaltz@ndsu.edu

Ohio

"Ohio Families and Youth Initiative"

Theresa Ferrari

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Kirk Bloir

bloir.1@osu.edu

Beverly Kelbaugh

kelbaugh.1@osu.edu



Nebraska: Afterschool students enjoy free time playing board games.



New Hampshire: KIDS IN GEAR members explore careers, such as culinary arts.



New Jersey: Project youth learn business skills like using a cash register.

CYFERnet-Evaluation

Project Directors: *Sherry Betts and Donna Peterson, University of Arizona; Jay Mancini and Lydia Marek, Virginia Tech*

Throughout 2006, CYFERnet Evaluation utilized a variety of techniques in providing resources and assistance to state CYFAR programs. New resources and Web sites related to program evaluation and sustainability are continuously posted on CYFERnet. Projects received consultation and technical assistance on logic model development, program evaluation, and program sustainability resources, materials, and methods. At the 2006 CYFAR Conference, the team provided training in logic model development and implementation.

The team provided technical assistance to newly funded CYFAR Sustainable Communities Projects (SCPs) on logic model and evaluation design and is working with colleagues to develop a national evaluation for Sustainable Communities Projects. This evaluation will address two questions:

- 1) Are SCPs accomplishing the short-term and long-term outcomes articulated in their state logic models?
- 2) What are the impacts of these SCPs on targeted at-risk audiences?

The team helped develop a reporting template to answer the first question. To answer the second question, current SCPs have been clustered based on similarities in their project outcomes. As new states are funded, they will be added to existing clusters or new clusters will be created. Reports will be prepared to discuss results across projects within the various clusters.

Oklahoma

"Oklahoma New Communities Project"

Janice R. Hermann

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Stephany P. Parker

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Barbara Brown

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Oregon

"Engaging Latino Youth and Families in Community-Based Educational Programs"

Beverly B. Hobbs

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Pennsylvania

"Youth Engaged in Technology"

Daniel F. Perkins

dfp102@psu.edu

CYFERnet-Program

Project Directors: Janet Kurzynske and Wendy Stivers, University of Kentucky

Project Manager: Kerri Ashurst, University of Kentucky
Early Childhood Editor - Lesia Oesterreich, Iowa State University

School Age Editor - Maureen Toomey, University of Idaho

Teen Editor - Bill Evans, University of Nevada-Reno

Parent/Family Editor - June Mead, Cornell University,
Community Editor - Susan Jakes, North Carolina State University

The CYFERnet-Program team and editorial boards provide technical assistance and resources to CYFAR programs, as well as other users, through a variety of strategies. The CYFERnet-Program team added new resources to the CYFERnet Web site, monitored dead link sites and responded to general public user questions about resources. A total of 1,316 new resources were peer reviewed, and 996 resources were posted to CYFERnet. There are presently 7,862 resources in the database. In 2006 there were over 1.3 million hits to the Web site, representing a 58% increase in usage from 2005 (791,000 hits). There was also a 68% increase in the number of different users on CYFERnet from 2005 to 2006 (88,000 in 2005; 129,682 in 2006). The most heavily searched content areas were health, child, community and evaluation resources. This information is used to determine gaps in content in order to continually make the site more functional for its users.

The listing of current and archived Hot Topics on the Web site is an effective means of offering timely research-based information on subjects of widespread interest. Each month, CYFERnet-Program editors aggregate information on a timely topic to create the monthly Hot Topic. Examples of major news and media issues that were addressed in 2006 are immigrants and immigrant law



New Mexico: Fifth graders learn to eat a variety of vegetables and fruits in Just Be It! Healthy & Fit.



New York: The Community Improvement Through Youth (CITY) planted bulbs in a neglected park on Making a Difference Day.



Oregon: Youth learn how to determine the age of a tree using a forester's increment borer.

Rhode Island

"FACE IT: Families & Communities Engaged in Issues Together"

Phyllis Bocage
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Marilyn Martin
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South Carolina

"Building on Heritage, Imagining the Future, and Creating the Present"

Barbara A. Brown
babrwn@clermson.edu

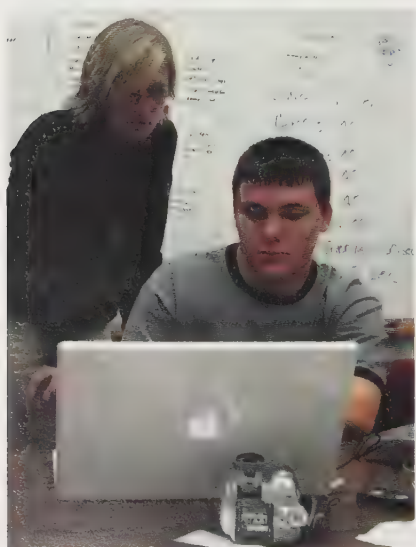
South Dakota

"Shaping Up: Family Style

Ann Michelle Daniels
daniels.michelle@ces.sdstate.edu
Marilyn Rasmussen
rasmussen.marilyn@ces.sdstate.edu



Ohio: A workforce preparation program participant demonstrates that hot air rises at a local science museum.



Pennsylvania: Youth Engaged in Technology members work on a recruitment video they produced.

in the United States and school violence. The continued national focus on school violence led to the development of a CYFAR 2007 pre-conference on the topic of “Keeping Our Kids Safe: Preventing School Violence through Building Resilient Communities.”

The CYFERnet-Program editorial boards utilized the latest technologies to review resources, discuss program issues and post information on CYFERnet. Each board conducted trainings, provided resources and marketed CYFERnet with the goals of increasing capacity of youth development and family program professionals and continuing the sharing of research-based resources. The CYFERnet-Program team conducted eight interactive telephone or Web-based trainings on such topics as Teaching Basic Health and Safety in the Early Childhood Classroom, Community-Based Service Learning, Youth Development and Prevention, Relationship and Marital Enrichment Education, and Parent Involvement in Schools. Most of these trainings were offered on the Web using CENTRA or BREEZE software. These online learning programs make it possible for nationally recognized professionals to share and exchange information with geographically distributed groups of youth and family professionals — reducing travel expense and time for the 460 participants. Resources from these trainings and recordings of the trainings were archived in the CYFERnet database, providing future access. The CYFERnet-Program team also presented approximately 60 workshops, presentations and exhibits related to CYFERnet resources.

Our primary priority during the past year was the continued development of collaborations between CYFERnet and relevant youth and family projects. A primary focus for collaboration was with eXtension. Members of the Early Childhood board are involved with the “Just in Time Parenting Newsletter” core advisory team and the “Child Care Advisor” planning grant. The School Age editor serves on her university’s eXtension

Tennessee

“Strengthening Community Programs in Tennessee - A New Beginning”
Matt Devereaux
mdevereaux@utk.edu

Texas

“Kids with Biz Ideaz: A New Generation of Possibilities”
Pamela J. Brown
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Jeff Howard
j-howard@tamu.edu

Utah

“Youth and Families with Promise - 4-H Academic Allstars/4-H Community Cares”
Kathleen Riggs
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Debra Jones
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Institutional Team and members of the School Age board are involved with the "Technology Community of Practice." The Teen editor serves on his university's eXtension Institutional Team. Members of the Parent/Family editorial board are involved with the "Family Caregiving Community of Practice." A second major collaboration focus was with the National Youth Organization Database merging project. This project is developing a common database among the approximately 50 leading national youth organization Web sites. CYFERnet will become a part of this new structure. The project is currently in progress and an organizing template and structure have been drafted.

The second priority over the past year was development and posting of the "Teens R It" Web site to complement the "Just for Kids" Web site already on CYFERnet. The Web site is located at <http://www.cyfernet.org/teens>. It includes resources on topics such as citizenship and service learning, college and careers, current events, science and technology and health.

The third priority was reviewing and posting National Network for Health (NNH) publications and resources that were not already on CYFERnet in preparation for the expiration of the NNH Web site.

CYFAR Conference

The Annual Children, Youth and Families At Risk (CYFAR) Conference 2006 was held at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta, May 16-19. Cathann Kress, Director 4-H Youth Development and Sharon Wright, National Program Leader opened the conference on behalf of National 4-H Headquarters, USDA. Art Dunning, Vice President, Public Service and Outreach, University of Georgia, welcomed nearly 800 land-grant university and county Extension faculty and partners from the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force and other youth and family organizations to the conference.



South Dakota: Families participate in a Wacipi with a focus on health and wellness practices.



Texas: Youth demonstrates how determination builds leadership in ROPES course at E-camp.

Vermont

"CYFAR New Communities Project"
Ellen Rowe
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Virgin Islands

"Helping Families Help Themselves in the USVI"
Lois Sanders
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Virginia

"Leadership Skills for the 21st Century"
Joseph Hunnings
hunnings@vt.edu
Clyde Jackson
cfjack@vt.edu



Utah: Youngsters tend to the kindergarten 4-H garden.



Virgin Islands: Youth see first-hand how peppers are grown.



Vermont: Learning to use a GPS at 4-H Geospatial Summer Camp.

Bo Ryles and Don Bower, conference co-chairs from the University of Georgia, led a team of 63 university and county faculty from 27 states in planning the CYFAR 2006 Conference. Constance Curry, producer of the film, *The Intolerable Burden*, presented a moving address on segregation and its impact on public education. Geoffrey Canada, President/CEO, Harlem Children's Zone, challenged participants to rebuild their sense of community and demonstrate that they care about all children and their future. Michael Resnick, Director, Healthy Youth Development Prevention Research Center, University of Minnesota, addressed *What We Know and Where We Must Go to Promote the Healthy Development of Our Young People*.

Todrick Webb, a former youth in a CYFAR project in Tift County, closed the conference with an original piano composition which was a tribute to Jerry Walker, the CYFAR project director who first supported and encouraged him. After graduation from Georgia Southwestern State University, Todrick plans to pursue a master's degree in piano performance and then continue studies at the doctoral level. Members of the Georgia Clovers and Company, Georgia's 4-H premier performing arts group, gave two outstanding musical performances.

The conference included three quality research presentations by Bonnie Benard, WestEd, Oakland, CA; Greg Owen, Wilder Research Center, St. Paul, MN; and Stephen Small, University of Wisconsin. Workshops, computer labs, interact discussions, program showcase exhibits, and poster sessions addressed a broad range of children, youth, family, and community issues.

The CYFAR Conference, the Georgia 4-H Foundation, and KaBOOM! joined forces to build a playground at the Southeast Outdoor YMCA in an Atlanta. In a high-energy, high-impact, one-day building blitz, about 250 volunteers from the CYFAR Conference, GA 4-H, and the YMCA community, transformed an empty lot into a new, fun place for children to play.

Washington

"Cultivating Community Strengths Together - CCST"
Mary Katherine Deen
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Louise Parker
parker@wsu.edu

Washington, DC

"Community Youth Connections/DC Reads"
Rebecca Bankhead
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West Virginia

"Strengthening and Expanding West Virginia Afterschool Programs"
Donna Patton
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Richard Fleisher
RLFleisher@mail.wvu.edu

Connecticut, Idaho, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Nevada, and Tennessee were presented CSREES/USDA Certificates of Appreciation for successfully completing five year CYFAR New Communities Projects.

Military Partnerships for Youth & Families

4-H/Army Youth Development Project Honored by Secretary Johanns

The 4-H/Army Youth Development Project (YDP) received honors from Secretary of Agriculture Michael Johanns at the 59th annual USDA Honor Award Ceremony in October, 2006. The project was cited for *"collaboration of Federal agencies, using public resources wisely, and meeting critical challenges facing American children as their parents are deployed."* The Honor Awards are the most prestigious awards presented by USDA. Eighteen members of the 4-H/Army YDP Team were recognized:

From Army:

BG John A. Macdonald, Director, Installation Management Agency
BG Belinda Pinkney, Commander, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation Command U.S. Army
M.-A. Lucas, Director, Army Child and Youth Services
Nancy Campbell, YDP Project Coordinator

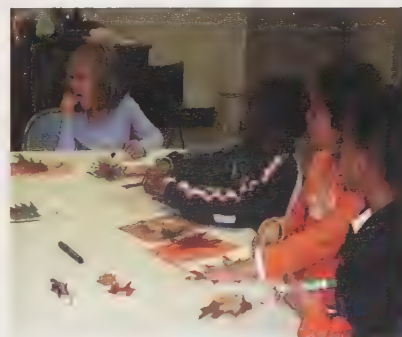
From 4-H Headquarters:

Cathann A. Kress, Director, Youth Development
Sharon KB Wright, National Program Leader
C. Eddy Mentzer, Program Specialist
Jim Kahler, Program Specialist
Janice Clark, Program Specialist



Wisconsin: Judging fair projects with CYFAR Hmong youth who have recently immigrated from Thailand.

Operation: Military Kids
www.operationmilitarykids.org



West Virginia: Students working on their project about why leaves change colors.

Wisconsin

"Positive Futures"

Gregory Hutchins

greg.hutchins@admin.uwex.edu

Matthew Calvert

matthew.calvert@uwex.edu



Hawaii: A fifth grader figures out how much water he needs to drink daily and measures it at Math Camp III - Math & Sports.

From Universities:

Darrin Allen, Virginia Tech
 Bradd Anderson, University of Missouri
 Mark Otto, Auburn University
 Deb Marple, Washington State University
 Jay Mancini, Virginia Tech
 Marlene Glasscock, Kansas State University
 Sam Fowler, Auburn University
 Debbie Bowman, University of Maryland
 Kevin Wright, Washington State University



Haskell (KS): Four members of the Spotted Eagle Dance Troupe parade in with the women dancers at the Denver March powwow.

The 4-H/Army YDP continued to support youth development and technology specialists assigned to all Army Regions, five universities which provide project leadership, and several specialists working on specific tasks in areas such as camping; babysitting; health, fitness, and nutrition; service learning; character education; and deployment issues. The YDP provided Operation: Military Kids grants totaling \$1.7 million to 30 states for support to youth of deployed soldiers. OMK teams led by State 4-H Military Liaisons, reached over 29,000 youth in OMK activities.

4-H/Army Youth Development Project

BG Belinda Pinckney
 Commander
 Family and Morale, Welfare and
 Recreation Command
 U.S. Army

M.-A. Lucas
 Director, Child and Youth Services
 Family and Morale, Welfare and
 Recreation Command
 U.S. Army

Nancy Campbell
 Youth Education Support Services
 Program Manager
 Family and Morale, Welfare and
 Recreation Command
 U.S. Army

Lauxman Receives 4-H/Army Salute Award

In recognition of outstanding effort and support of Military 4-H Programs, Lisa Lauxman received the fifth *4-H/Army Youth Development Project Salute Award* at the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents conference in Milwaukee. Lauxman is the State 4-H Program Leader at the University of Arizona, 4-H Youth Development. Cathann Kress, National 4-H Youth Development Director, CSREES, and Nancy Campbell, Program Manager, Army Youth Education Support Services, presented the award. As the State 4-H Military Liaison, Lauxman has served as the Project Director for the AZ Military 4-H Grant and the AZ Operation: Military Kids initiative. Lauxman has worked with military and Extension staff in her state to expand 4-H opportunities to military youth, provide training for military staff and build networks of support for military families across the state. Lauxman also supports 4-H efforts on Air Force bases in Korea and Japan.

The 4-H/Air Force Partnership

National 4-H Headquarters partners with Air Force Services Family Member Programs to expand opportunities for Air Force youth in the U.S. and overseas. State 4-H Military Liaisons coordinate work with Air Force bases and county 4-H staff to establish clubs on bases around the world. In 2006 over 6,000 AF youth are enrolled in 4-H clubs.

Three 4-H youth development professionals are on assignment to AF: Brandi Mullens, University of Georgia provides support to AF Reserve families and is assigned to Robins AFB. Sandra Mason, University of Maryland, supports Air National Guard and is assigned to Andrews AFB. David Brittain, North Carolina State University, works with active duty bases and coordinates



Kansas: Youth are joined by their congressman's aide for the Power-Up Club! cardio-fitness games.



New Hampshire: The Seacoast Youth Leadership Project partners with the Blue Ocean Society Adopt-A-Beach program.



New Jersey: City youth have fun with team building activities.

4-H/Army Youth Development Project

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Darrin Allen
Operation: Military Kids Coordinator
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New Mexico: Fifth graders learn about nutrition through a variety of educational activities in Just Be It! Healthy & Fit .



Ohio: Workforce preparation program participants demonstrate how to build an arch at the local science museum.

the AF youth health and fitness initiative, FitFactor. Mike Klumpp and Connie Phelps, University of Arkansas, provided AF youth opportunities to experience the Ultimate Outdoor and Fitness Adventure camp during the summer.

Watkins Receives 4-H/Air Force Aim High Award

Sheran Watkins, 4-H Youth Development Educator from Harrison County, MS, was the recipient of the second annual *4-H/Air Force Aim High Award* presented at the National Association of Extension 4-H Agents in Milwaukee in October 2006. Watkins was recognized for her outstanding effort and support of Air Force 4-H programs and her work with Keesler AFB and in the community after the effects of Hurricane Katrina. Cathann Kress, Director, Youth Development, National 4-H Headquarters, CSREES, and Eliza Nesmith, Chief, Air Force Services Community Programs, presented the *4-H/Air Force Aim High Award*. Watkins has fostered a close partnership with the staff at the Keesler Air Force Base Youth Center that has led to creative and exciting opportunities for military youth and families. As a veteran of the military service herself, Watkins understands the stress and hardships that many military families and youth experience and has planned 4-H programs accordingly.

Military 4-H Grants – Army, Air Force, and 4-H

National 4-H Headquarters, U.S. Army Child and Youth Services and U.S. Air Force Services Family Member Programs continued their commitment to providing military youth around the world the opportunity to experience 4-H clubs on installations and in communities. Military 4-H Grants to 31 states support county 4-H staff responsible for getting the clubs chartered, the members enrolled, the volunteer leaders trained, and integrating these clubs into the ongoing 4-H program in the county. These programs now also focus on bringing the youth of National Guard

4-H/ Air Force Partnerships

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Brandi Mullins
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and Reserve who are geographically dispersed into the 4-H program.

Money from Army, Air Force and 4-H provided just under \$1 million this year for grants to 30 states and one territory. This complex grant program is ably directed by Marlene Glasscock, Kansas State University, who oversees grants, budgets and work plans from all grantees and provides technical assistance to State 4-H Military Liaisons.

Receiving Military 4-H Grants this year: AK, AZ, CA, CO, DE, FL, GA, GU, HI, ID, IL, KS, KY, MD, MA, MS, MO, MT, NE, NV, NJ, NY, NC, ND, OH, OK, PA, SC, TX, UT, WA. In these states, 16,222 military youth are learning new life skills and gaining self confidence through their participation in 4-H clubs both on base and in communities. The breakdown is shown in the following table.

Military 4-H Members in States with Military 4-H Grants		
	On Post	Off Post
Army	9,185	360
Air Force	4,829	421
National Guard	48	763
Reserve	5	91
Other Military	202	318
Subtotal	14,269	1,953
Total	16,222	

In addition to supporting 4-H clubs for military youth in their states, State 4-H Military Liaisons coordinate statewide 4-H/military



Utah: Youth launching rockets in the 4-H rocketry club.



Wisconsin: CYFAR older youth take time to read to the younger children, role modeling the importance of literacy in one's life.

4-H/ Air Force Partnerships

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USDA/ Air Force Research Projects

Lee Torres
Lt Col, USAF, BSC
Chief, Family Advocacy Operations
and Research
Air Force Medical Support Agency
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Brooks City-Base, TX

Sandra Stith, Ph.D
Air Force/CSREES Collaborative
Projects Program Manager
Virginia Tech
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partnerships and educate citizens in the needs of children and youth of military families. Their states provided 4-H training to 3,392 military staff. Year end reports indicate that in addition to support to 4-H clubs, these grants stimulated valuable networking opportunities across military branches, across states, and between county and installation staff.

CSREES/Virginia Tech/Air Force Collaboration

Land-grant university faculty have been collaborating with the U.S. Air Force through this partnership since 1995. During 2006 a number of projects begun earlier have continued, and new projects have begun.

Development of Algorithms for Estimating Family Violence Rates in Air Force Communities - Stage 3 is a research project led by Drs. Amy Slep and Richard Heyman of SUNY Stony Brook. The intent of this effort is to develop an algorithm for estimating the prevalence of family maltreatment in the Air Force. This phase of the project involved including family maltreatment issues in the 2006 Air Force Community Needs Assessment. They also assisted Family Advocacy program managers to operationalize Air Force Central Registry Boards service-wide and train members of Central Registry Boards.

Dr. Joel Milner of Northern Illinois University leads the Family Advocacy System of Records (FASOR) Database Management Assistance and Data Analysis Project. This project assists Family Advocacy Program managers understand and effectively use their FASOR data base to understand family maltreatment and to implement timely and appropriate treatment processes for their clients.

Dr. Sandra Stith at Virginia Tech is managing the Focused Prevention Effectiveness Study to support the efforts of FAP prevention staff using evidence-based prevention programs. Currently 11 installations are conducting the 1-2-3 Magic parenting program and are asking participants to complete pre-test, post-test and follow-up data.

Dr. Stith and colleagues at Virginia Tech have developed content for two Web-based trainings for new USAF Family Advocacy nurses to increase their understanding of domestic violence and to increase their understanding of postpartum depression. They have also examined peer-reviewed literature to determine which domestic violence prevention programs have documented evidence of effectiveness and compiled a guide to these programs.

CYFAR Home Page:
<http://www.csrees.usda.gov/cyfar/>

CYFAR Community Projects Database:
<http://www.cyfernet.org/databases/cyfarreporting/public/>

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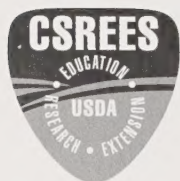
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Cover: Texas youth learn the basics of production in the Youth Entrepreneurship Project. Through strong local collaborations with community leaders, business owners and experts, Extension professionals, teachers and organizational leaders, it provides multiple activity-based lessons in business startup and management, culminating with trade show demonstrations of projects.



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